

2006 Annual Report



Columbus Parks and Recreation Department
P.O. Box 858
Columbus, IN 47202-0858
(812) 376-2680
www.columbusparksandrec.com





Parks and Recreation Board Members

Brian Russell, President
Jerry Littrell, Vice President
Ryan Brand, Secretary
Amy Macy, Member

Chuck Wilt, Director

December 21, 2006

The Honorable Fred L. Armstrong
Mayor
City of Columbus
123 Washington Street
Columbus, IN 47201

Dear Mayor Armstrong:

It is with great pleasure that we present the Columbus Parks and Recreation Department's 2006 Annual Report. As in previous years, we have spent the year serving the community in a myriad of ways, providing important services and recreation opportunities for all citizens of Columbus and the surrounding area.

The Columbus Parks and Recreation Department enjoyed another great year in 2006. We partnered with the Columbus Area Visitors Center to host amateur sports events, including the USSSA 16 & Under and 18 & Under Girls' Fast Pitch Softball World Series. These events generated an economic impact of over \$12 million for the community. The Department also partnered with the Columbus In Bloom Committee, the Columbus Area Visitors Center and the City's Community Development office to win the National America In Bloom Award.

The following report highlights the many projects and activities our staff worked on during the year. We thank you for your continued support.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Russell
President, Parks and Recreation Board

Chuck Wilt
Director of Parks and Recreation

cc: Park Board
City Council
City Department Heads
CIT

MISSION STATEMENT

Enriching Lives...Building Community

VISION STATEMENT

The Columbus Parks and Recreation Department

- ✓ Is recognized on a local, state and national basis for providing the highest quality programs and facilities.
- ✓ Has a well trained, friendly and professional staff that is proud to serve the community.
- ✓ Anticipates and is responsive to the changing needs and desires of our community
- ✓ Is an active participant in a community-wide program successfully promoting healthy lifestyles and wise leisure choices.
- ✓ Is identified as the clearinghouse in Columbus and Bartholomew County for fun activities for children and families.
- ✓ Is a major partner in tourism and economic development through the development of park amenities that host and attract visitors to regional and national sports and cultural events.

Grant Awards

The Columbus Parks and Recreation Department received several local grants, including a grant from the Columbus Park Foundation for youth scholarships, a grant from the Jolie Crider Reachout Fund to allow Boys and Girls Club participants to attend classes at Columbus Gymnastics Center and for maintenance of the Jolie Crider Skate Park, a grant from the Irwin-Sweeney-Miller Foundation for maintenance of The Commons, and a grant from Cummins Engine Foundation for the design fees for the Mill Race Round-a-bout.

Staff Recognition and Awards

Columbus was awarded the National America in Bloom Award in October 2006. On hand to accept the award was Mayor Fred Armstrong, Lynn Lucas of the Columbus Area Visitors Center, Chuck Wilt, Nick Rush and Casey Ritz with the Columbus Parks and Recreation Department, and several members of the Columbus In Bloom Committee.

- ✓ Chuck Wilt was elected President-Elect of the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration.
- ✓ 2005 NCMA (National Concrete Masonry Association) Design Award of Honor: Landscape for the Haw Creek Bike Path
- ✓ Indiana Ready Mixed Concrete Association 2006 Concrete Achievement Award for Excellence in Concrete Construction for the City of Columbus Parks Department - Blackwell Park, Freedom Field.
- ✓ Laura Garrett was chosen as a participant in the Rotary GSE (Group Study Exchange) to Tochigi, Japan in May 2007.

Annual Report 2006



PARKS AND RECREATION MAKES AN ECONOMIC IMPACT IN 2006

The Columbus Parks and Recreation Department, partnering with the Columbus Area Visitors Center, continued to be a major contributor to tourism in Columbus, thanks to its outstanding sports and recreation facilities. In 2006, 34,899 out-of-town visitors attended events held at parks and recreation facilities including:

- ✓ USSSA Men's Major Softball National Invitational Tournament
- ✓ USSSA Girls' Fast Pitch Softball Indiana State Tournament
- ✓ USSSA Girls' 11 & Under, 12 & Under A and 16 & Under Fast Pitch Softball World Series
- ✓ USSSA/IBA Basketball Tourney I & II
- ✓ Senior Softball Tournament
- ✓ Columbus Express Invitational Youth Soccer Tournament
- ✓ Midwest Section, USTA Girls Tennis National Qualifier
- ✓ Fall Foliage Hockey Tournament
- ✓ Thanksgiving Hockey Tournament
- ✓ Women's Hockey Tournament
- ✓ Pepsi Indiana Junior Golf Tournament
- ✓ USSSA State Baseball Tournament
- ✓ USSSA Fast Pitch Softball Super N.I.T. Tournament
- ✓ Martin Luther King Jr. Ice Competition
- ✓ ASA Slow Pitch Women's "E" State Softball Tournament
- ✓ Indiana State Figure Skating Championships
- ✓ USSSA Baseball Tournament 9U & 11U
- ✓ USSSA Fast Pitch Softball Qualifying Tournaments
- ✓ MRL Soccer Tournament
- ✓ USSSA Slow Pitch Softball "C" Tournament
- ✓ Preliminary Round of Indiana State Soccer Cup Challenge
- ✓ SPA Classic
- ✓ Indiana Heat Softball Tournament
- ✓ Southern Indiana Orthopedics Soccer Express Playoffs
- ✓ USSSA Legends of Lincoln D/NIT Slow Pitch Softball Tournament
- ✓ CSA/ASA Slow Pitch Softball Women's D/E & Men's 40-45-50 Tournament
- ✓ USSSA Fast Pitch Softball Warm-Up Tournament
- ✓ Early Bird Swim Meet
- ✓ Jamie Miller Swim Meet
- ✓ State Age Group Swim Meet
- ✓ USSSA Baseball Qualifier



The total economic impact of these events has been estimated by the Columbus Area Visitors Center to be over \$12 million in hotel, restaurant, gasoline and retail business. Columbus will be hosting more state, regional and national tournaments in the future and will continue to benefit from these sporting events.



DEPARTMENT CONTINUES WORK ON STRATEGIC PLANNING

The Columbus Parks and Recreation Department had its annual retreat on November 2, 2006, where staff and Park Board members reviewed the progress made with each of the six critical success factors:

- Marketing/Public Relations and Resource Development
- Employer of Choice
- MOUs with Community Partners
- Recreation and Program Planning
- Technology
- Combating Vandalism

In particular, reports were made on the Department's 2007 Marketing Plan, Customer Retention Plan and research on employee work culture. Work on these critical success factors will continue in 2007.

AMY MACY JOINS THE COLUMBUS PARK BOARD IN 2006

The Columbus Parks and Recreation Department staff is pleased to welcome Amy Macy to the Park Board. Amy took over the seat previously held by Clarissa Russell. Amy is a native of Columbus and a graduate of Columbus East High School. Amy attended Hanover College, where she received her B.A. degree. She received her Master's Degree in Exercise Physiology from Indiana University. Amy played several sports at Columbus East and Hanover before returning to Columbus to work as a personal trainer at the Tipton Lakes Athletic Club. Along with those duties, she is now the owner of the Athletes' Foot in downtown Columbus. Welcome Amy!

COLUMBUS WINS THE AMERICA IN BLOOM AWARD!

2006 was a year in bloom for our City, and Columbus Parks and Recreation Department was proud to be a part of it. Nick Rush, Casey Ritz, Laura Garrett and Chuck Wilt all served on the Columbus In Bloom Committee. This committee of over 60 local volunteers partnered with the Columbus Area Visitors Center and the City's Community Development office to win the National America In Bloom Award in Eureka Springs, Arkansas. Mayor Fred Armstrong accepted the award along with Columbus In Bloom Co-Chairs Jim Dietz and Cindy Frey. By virtue of the win this year, the City of Columbus has been invited to enter the 2007 International In Bloom Competition.



America In Bloom Award - October 2006

FREEDOM FIELD PLAYGROUND OPENS IN 2006

In September 2006, Columbus Parks and Recreation Department welcomed the newest addition to the park system, the \$600,000 Freedom Field all-inclusive playground. This playground, the largest of its type in the state, is located behind Parkside Elementary School at Blackwell Park. The playground is the brainchild of Laurie Booher, Amy Lienhoop and the ladies with the Columbus Service League, who embarked on a major fundraising effort to raise over \$500,000 through community donations. Columbus Service League also partnered with BCSC, our Department and the City of Columbus to make the playground a reality.

Ed Curtin and Laura Garrett with Columbus Parks and Recreation Department were key players in working with the Columbus Service League and all partners on the design and construction of the playground. Columbus Parks and Recreation is proud to support this great community project that serves children of all ages and abilities.



COLUMBUS PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT IMPROVES ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAVINGS

In an effort to reduce consumption of non-renewable fuels and cut costs, the Columbus Parks and Recreation Department implemented several new processes and adopted new technologies in 2006. Below are a few examples of how the Department has been saving energy and reducing its impact on the environment:

- ✓ The Department purchased its first hybrid car for Park Patrol. The new car has increased gas mileage to over 40 MPG with a cost savings of over \$3,000 annually.
- ✓ The Department upgraded its energy management equipment at Hamilton Center. The result is a 15% reduction in energy costs in 2006.
- ✓ Chemical control equipment processes were adopted at Donner Aquatics Center, with a cost savings of over \$10,000 in chlorine.
- ✓ Paper recycling bins were installed at Donner Center, Hamilton Center, Lincoln Park and First United Methodist Church to benefit the Columbus Park Foundation's 'Trees for Trees' campaign. All proceeds generated from the Abitibi bins will be used to purchase new trees for our local parks and trails.
- ✓ 23 benches made from recycled plastic were installed along the Haw Creek People Trail.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Aquatics Programs

- ✓ The public swimming season is based on the school year, with Donner Aquatic Center opening the day after school ends and closing the Sunday before school resumes. In 2006, DAC was open for swimming from Friday, May 26 through Sunday August 13, a total of 81 days.
- ✓ The attendance for 2006 was 39,950. This is down from the wonderful year we had in 2005 but average for previous years. DAC did lose 7 days of public sessions due to the fact that we were able to host swim meets again. There was a period of free swim offered each day the pool was open to the public. We estimate that there were 9,247 visits to free swim.
- ✓ 603 enrolled in DAC's 2006 American Red Cross "Learn to Swim" group lesson program. Enrollment for 2005 was 657. Three two week sessions of morning and evening lessons were offered. Private lessons were also offered.
- ✓ A movable floor was installed in 2006 which permits the floor to be raised for a water depth of 14" or lowered for a water depth of 5'. The new floor, at the south end of the pool, was kept at a depth of 3' during public sessions and swim lessons and lowered to 5' during swim meets. We also raised the floor to a depth of 14" on our second annual Doggie Days, allowing easy entry and exit to the pool for the dogs.



✓ **Other activities for 2006 included the following:**

Pre-school Swim – Each Saturday between 10 and 11 AM the leisure pool was open for parents and children 6 years of age and under. Admission was \$1.00 per person. Attendance for 2006 pre-school swim was 348.

Swim Meets – With the installation of the new movable floor Donner Swim Club was able to host 3 swim meets at DAC. The Early Bird Swim Meet was held May 13th and 14th. The Jamie Miller Swim Meet was held Friday, June 2nd through Sunday, June 4th. Finally, the State Age Group Swim Meet was held Friday, July 28th through Sunday July 30th. There were 500 participants in the Jamie Miller Swim Meet and over 1,000 participants for the State Age Group Swim Meet

CPD & Me – On Tuesday, August 1st DAC participated in the CPD & Me/ National Night Out by holding a free public session for all who attended the event. An estimated 1,500 people participated in the event while 600 people

took advantage of the free swim. National Night Out is an annual, nationwide campaign to promote community building, teamwork and Crime Prevention.



End of Summer Doggie Swim – Following the final public swim session on Sunday, August 13, DAC collaborated with Columbus Animal Control and Columbus Animal Rescue Effort (CARE) to host the Second Annual Doggie Swim. A total of 90 dogs participated. Of the \$5.00 entry fee, \$3.00 was contributed to the CARE spay and neutering program.

Karaoke Talent Day – A full blown karaoke system was brought in for three afternoon sessions during the pool season. Adults, teens, and youngsters sang to their favorite melodies.

✓ We provided special group rates to community groups attending public sessions.

Groups attending on a regular basis in 2006 were FFY/Boys and Girls Club, Children Inc., and Hope Community Center.

✓ There were 17 private pool rentals during the 2006 season compared to 14 in 2005. Return renters included Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Boy Scout Troop 555, St. Bartholomew Parish and the Columbus North Football Team.

✓ While the vast majority of the aquatics program is associated with Donner Aquatic Center, a few activities are offered during other months of the year. The Masters (adult lap swimming) program permits lap swimming for an hour and a half Monday through Thursday evenings and Sunday afternoons from August to May at Columbus East Pool.

✓ In addition, eight men and women took part in our winter Scuba Diving Course taught by Tom and Kathy Rebber.

✓ Thirty teens participated in an American Red Cross Lifeguard course and eight students completed the American Red Cross WSI course.

✓ ***www.donnerpool.com*** – In November 2006, Aquatics Manager Jim Lemke published www.donnerpool.com to help promote classes, events and activities held at DAC and the Aquatics Program. The site will be maintained by the Aquatics Management Team.

Gymnastics Programs

✓ This spring, the Columbus Gymnastic Center launched a new initiative for the Center, ***It's All About Fitness & Fun.*** CGC's programming goal is to provide new classes, programs and rental opportunities that support our core business of preschool fun and school-age fitness in a safe and fun environment. The CGC competitive program dissolved late winter of 2006.

A new Facility/Program Manager and Class Coordinator were hired in 2006 to oversee the new initiative. Their enthusiasm and efforts resulted in the following:

- The Gymnastic Center was sectioned off in 4 areas, Fun Zone, Preschool classes, School-Age Fitness Zone, and a zone for upper classes
- A new indoor preschool playground structure was built in August to enhance *All About Fun* for young children. The playground structure, wall artwork and new viewing area all follow a jungle theme. Chatter the Gym Monkey also has a new costume, and is around during Open Gyms. In 2007, plans are underway to expand the school age fitness zone to accommodate more conditioning programs.



- ✓ In 2006, 8 class sessions were held at CGC, with a total enrollment of 1,329 children.
- ✓ A total of 147 preschool open gyms and a total of 35 school-aged open gyms were held this year. CGC has hosted 48 birthday parties so far this year with a total of 960 participants.
- ✓ CGC held 2 preschool camps over the 2006 summer. Both camps maxed out at 30 children.
- ✓ 11 preschools and 4 schools have taken advantage of CGC through field trips for a total of 257 children.
- ✓ Our enrichment program is a free program funded by a grant from the Jolie Crider Reach Out Fund. Children of the Boys and Girls Club of America and Columbus North High School's Preschool were able to enjoy the sport of gymnastics.
- ✓ In April we held all day open gyms for the USSSA Basketball Tourney. 92 children were able to play in the Gymnastic Center during and between games.
- ✓ The Competitive Cheer program continued with their best season ever. Columbus Power Elite currently has 2 cheer squads with a total of 45 participants. The cheer team sponsored a cheer camp last April. The camp was very successful, with 45 to 50 participants in attendance. In September, the group held a mock Cheer Competition in the Columbus Gymnastic Center for their families and friends.

Hockey and Ice Skating Programs

- ✓ Hamilton Center programs enjoyed excellent attendance in 2006. Group lesson and Intro to Hockey (youth and adult) programs had a total of 1,001 participants. Our ice show consisted of over 185 participants. Adult hockey had 59 players this season. The Youth Hockey House League had 110 players participating. Broomball had six teams playing approximately 34 games this year. Attendance at the public sessions increased as well with approximately 7,850 skaters participating in this fun traditional family activity.
- ✓ In January, this year, Hamilton Center Ice Arena hosted the 7th annual MLK Basic Skills Figure Skating Competition. This competition drew 86 skaters competing in 127 events. The skaters came from, Indianapolis, Louisville, South Bend, Lexington, Dayton, Bloomington, and Columbus. There were 60 skaters that train at Hamilton Center Ice Arena who competed in this competition, many bringing home awards. The summer figure skating camp, where skaters can come in and get personal, one on one training, had 221 members.
- ✓ Kacie Kotnik, of the Lincoln Center Figure Skating Club, won a Bronze Medal in the Regional Intermediate Ladies competition, and a spot at the U.S. Junior National Figure Skating Competition. She placed 11th in her qualifying round of Intermediate Ladies. Only 41 skaters in the entire country qualified for this event (out of about 900 to start with) so this was quite an accomplishment for her and her long time coach, Liz Fernandes.
- ✓ Five other skaters, placed at the Open Juvenile Regional Competition; Taylor Wentz, 4th; Macey Thornburg, 5th; Allison Grana, 6th; Carissa Fry, 9th; and Kayla Whaley, 10th. Two placed in the Pre-Juvenile Competition, Sara Bean, 6th and Jackie Shao, 6th.
- ✓ Over the course of the year, Hamilton Center hosted 111 individual private rentals with over 500 in attendance. In addition, 12 different church groups took advantage of our private rentals for both skating and broomball, with over 300 participants. Two Lock-In events offered by the center hosted over 300 people in 2006. Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation had over 845 students attending skating sessions this year. Hamilton Center hosted nearly 100 birthday party rentals, with 982 children in attendance.
- ✓ The facility hosted a total of five tournaments (three boys' tournaments and two girls' tournaments) this year for Columbus Youth Hockey. The tournaments involved 34 teams from outside of Columbus, and around the Midwest. The Fall Foliage tournament had 16 teams from a four state region. It was one of the largest tournaments held at Hamilton Center in recent history. The tournament lasted approximately 37 hours from Friday until Sunday. For the first time in many years, all levels of our Columbus teams made it all the way to compete in the finals, with a few of our teams bringing home trophies! The summer hockey camps, Culver and Liquori, were again filled to maximum capacity with 58 players participating. The Adult Co-Ed Hockey tournament was held in August and lasted for two days. The tournament consisted of 6 teams with a total of 75 players from Dayton, OH; Nashville, TN; Indianapolis, and Columbus.
- ✓ In November, the Police Department and Fire Department held their annual Broomball Cheer Fund Benefit Playoff at the arena. The Fire Department took home the title. The benefit had a great turn out, earning \$300.00 in donations for the Cheer Fund.

Sports Programs

- ✓ Sports Programs had a successful year in 2006, with approximately 29,600 participants in youth and adult sports. This includes softball (tournaments and regular season), basketball, youth baseball, volleyball, soccer, table tennis, kickball, tennis, youth sports camps and the batting cage.
- ✓ Youth soccer and baseball continue to be strong programs with nearly 2,910 area youth participating. Special thanks to the Columbus Youth Soccer Association Board and the Columbus Babe Ruth Baseball Board for their hard work and dedication toward helping provide top notch youth programs. Also, a special thanks to all of the baseball team sponsors for their financial support.
- ✓ Interest in adult sports continued with over 4,000 participants enrolled in programs. Soccer, basketball, volleyball, kickball and softball continue to be popular sports.
- ✓ The 7th Annual Bill Stearman 3-on-3 Shoot-Out, co-hosted by Parks and Recreation and the Lincoln Central Neighborhood Family Center, was a success. There were 164 youth and adult basketball players showing off their skills at Columbus North High School.
- ✓ The Columbus Softball Association reported 207 teams with 3,105 players participating in summer and fall leagues. Thanks to the Columbus Softball Association for their work to improve the quality of softball in Columbus.
- ✓ Lincoln and Clifty Park Softball Complexes were once again hosting sites for adult softball, girls' fast pitch softball, and youth baseball tournaments. Over 700 teams participated in tournaments at Lincoln and Clifty Parks. These tournaments brought thousands of people from around the country to Columbus. The highlight of the year was the 2006 16 & under "B" and 18 & under "B" USSSA Girls' Fast Pitch World Series, which brought 102 teams and families to Columbus in July.
- ✓ The summer tennis program continued to have success with 405 participants. Special thanks to Tennis Director Mike Burt for his help and support.
- ✓ The second year of the Adult Kickball league took place at Lincoln Park. The league was a huge success with approximately 150 adults on 10 teams showing off their kicking skills. This is a great recreational activity that the adults really enjoy. We will continue to look at non-traditional sports to encourage recreation by adults in our community.
- ✓ Sports Camps have become a big business for the Parks and Recreation Department. Over 493 youth enrolled in sports camps in 2006. The camps included soccer, baseball, basketball, and volleyball.

Golf Programs

- ✓ Our golf facilities continued to enjoy tremendous support from the community. As of November 2006, Greenbelt Golf Course had provided 20,770 rounds of golf to the community, a slight increase over 2005. Rocky Ford Par-3 Golf Course users played 12,609 rounds in 2006.
- ✓ The Junior Golf Program was at maximum participation in 2006 with 61 participants playing during five classes, indicating the desire for golf in our community and the quality programming offered by both courses. The Men's and Women's clubs, the Senior League and the Junior Golf Club also remained strong performers in 2006.
- ✓ Both the Greenbelt and Rocky Ford Par-3 courses were in excellent shape throughout the season, adding to the enjoyment and satisfaction of our customers.
- ✓ In 2006, Dewight DeBord celebrated 25 years of services with Columbus Parks and Recreation Department

Recreation and Special Events Programming

Day Camps

- ✓ The summer Recreational Day Camp program continued to grow in popularity in 2006. A total of 428 campers ages 3-14 enrolled in a variety of week-long theme camps or day long field trips. This was an increase of approximately 50 children from 2005. "Disney Days" camp for ages 3-4 and 5-7 were full again with 30 children enrolled in each age group and several more on the waiting list. "Mini Super Snoops" for both age groups also proved to be very popular with approximately 50 children registered.
- ✓ Our partnership with the Columbus North Theater Department continued to grow as two additional drama camps were offered this year at North. "P*L*A*Y ON! for ages 5-7 and Project: A*C*T for ages 8-12 offered another 50 children the opportunity to be "on the big stage!". Camp M*A*D (Music, Art & Drama) saw an increase of over 35% in registrations from 2005.
- ✓ A new field trip this year, "Variety Day" with stops at Columbus Gymnastics Center, Greenbelt Golf Course, Lincoln Park Batting Cages and Hamilton Center Ice Arena had maximum registration of 40 6-12 year olds.

Pre School Recreation

- ✓ In 2006, the Columbus Parks and Recreation Department became a co-sponsor of the annual "Festival of the Young Child". Other sponsors are Children Inc. and Childhood Connections. This event highlights agencies and organizations that provide programs and activities for the preschool age child. This event is a perfect fit for the department and gives us the opportunity to showcase the programs/activities we offer for this age group. Over 200 preschool age children and their parents attended the event.
- ✓ The summer day camp program also offers a wide variety of activity choices for the preschool age child. Five weeks of the program are dedicated to the preschool age camps. 240 children were enrolled in these summer camps.



✓ “Active Artists!” held at the Columbus Gymnastics Center once a month with holiday themed crafts drew over 100 preschool age children during open gym times. Several family and free events involved the preschool age including the Halloween Costume Contest, Mom & Me for Tea, Noon Kid Concerts, Mad Scientists, Trick or Treat Tales, Santa’s Workshop, Free Fun Days and the Youth Fishing Derby.

Youth Recreation

✓ In 2006, the Department sponsored a variety of programs for ages 7-up. Several day camps/one day field trips were held for this age group with an enrollment of 190. Other programs for this group included “Art Attack!” (series of art classes), Super Sitters, Acting Up!, Jr. Mill Race Players, the Kids/Teens Only Garage Sale, the Youth Fishing Derby (up to age 15), the Halloween Costume Contest (up to age 12), Supervised Playground Program, Easter Egg Hunt (up to age 8) and new this year Hip Hop Dance classes. Approximately 1,800 children were involved in these programs. Due to the popularity of the program in 2005, Marla Page conducted an additional Super Sitters class at Parkside School for their after school program.



Family Events

✓ Family activities again proved to be popular draws in 2006. Family events included the annual Easter Egg Hunt at Donner Park, Trick or Treat Tales Halloween Event at Donner Center, the annual Halloween Costume Contest, Mad Scientists family science night, Family Bingo/Make Your Own Sundae Night, Mom & Me for Tea, Youth Fishing Derby and Santa’s Workshop. Noon Kid Concerts continued for the 14th year at Donner Shelter with three shows this summer. Other family events included the Festival of the Young Child and “Ghostly Tales at Youth Camp” in partnership with the PIE (Partners In Education) group and Free Fun Days. Approximately 4,000 people participated in these family events.

Special Events

✓ The Department was again proud to assist with and co-sponsor several community special events. Donner Park/Donner Center and Mill Race Park continued to be popular venues with approximately 40 special events and rentals held in these facilities. These events included: Bark in the Park, Free Fabulous Friday, Mill Race Race/Mayor’s Walk, the Columbus Bluegrass Jamboree Concerts Donner Variety Shows and various community groups fund-raising walks/runs. A highlight of the special events at Mill Race Park was the “Country in the Park” concert in August. This event co-sponsored with the Columbus Area Arts Council and radio station WKKG drew approximately 3,000 people to enjoy a free evening of country music.

✓ Rentals at Mill Race Park included the Columbus Symphony Orchestra Concert, Family Services Fun Fest, the annual Hospice Benefit Concert, the Columbus, IN Emmaus Community “Chrysalis Hoot”, church services and weddings. Two new rentals this year were the “Picnicking with Spices-India Fest” which drew approximately 1,000 people and “A First Fourth” sponsored by First Christian Church in July. This event drew approximately 500 people. The Department also supported the Kiwanis Duck Race in White River in October.

Teen Programming

✓ The Teen Council with support from the Parks and Recreation Department and Foundation for Youth is made up of students from Columbus East and North. The group is responsible for sponsoring a variety of events during the year. The teens generate the ideas and do the work to implement them. “Battle of the Bands”, “Java Jive”, and “Back to School Bash” continued to be popular with teens again this year. The 3 events drew approximately 1,500 teens total. The second “Date Auction” was held in January with 20 high school males from Columbus East and Columbus North volunteering to be “auctioned.” Proceeds from this event stayed with the Teen Council to support their free activities. The “auctionees” and their dates attended a supervised dinner/movie date. Approximately 250-300 teens attended the auction. Future social events for 2006 include the “Santa Jam” concert which will be held on December 27 at the Commons and an overnight lock-in for Teen Council members on Dec. 16-17 at Foundation for Youth.

✓ Teen Council members are also involved in local volunteer/service projects. They helped plan a healthy food drive/health fair that was held in April as a component of the National Youth Service Day. The donated food was taken to Love Chapel. A highlight of the community service projects was the co-sponsorship with the Council for Youth Development of the 2nd “Drive In Movie” family event. The teens helped set up, run and tear down all of the carnival games and booths for the event. They also helped clean up after the movie at Lincoln Park. In November, they sponsored the 3rd “Cookies N’ Cream Challenge” with proceeds going to buy items for the Salvation Army’s Angel Tree program. The extra chocolate milk from the event was donated again to Love Chapel. Several of the council members are also very involved with the planning for the annual Dance Marathon fund raiser for Turning Point. The Santa Jam concert on Dec. 27 will also have a community service aspect. All those in attendance will receive \$1 off admission with a non-perishable food donation at the door. These items will be donated to local food pantries.

✓ The annual Columbus North/Columbus East After Prom was held in May with approximately 800 juniors and seniors attending. The event is co-sponsored with Foundation for Youth and parents of junior and senior students.

Free Programs

✓ During the summer of 2006, the Department continued to offer a variety of free recreational activities. The four Free Fun Days that were held this summer again drew large crowds with an average of 250 persons for each one. New themes for two of the Fun Days included “Under the Big Top” and the “Princess and Pirate Party”. Additional free activities included: 3 Noon Kid Concerts, Fabulous Friday, four Donner Variety Shows, Bark in the Park, Halloween Costume Contest, 13 Columbus City Band Concerts, Easter Egg Hunt, Family Bingo Night, Country in the Park, Festival of the Young Child, Battle of the Bands, Back to School Bash and four Columbus Bluegrass Jamboree concerts. These free events attracted over 10,000 participants.

✓ The 7 week, structured, supervised playground program was again offered at 4 locations for ages 6-12. These sites were: Mead Village Park, Ninth St. Park, Pence St. Park and Harrison Ridge Park. Parkside School was not included this year due to the construction of the new Freedom Field playground and McCullough’s Run was not included due to construction of additional amenities. Children from the Parkside School area could take advantage of the site at Mead Village Park. Attendance at all 4 sites was 1,584, which is an increase of 224 children from 2005.



✓ Two new ideas were introduced to the playground program this year. One was the addition of lunches being served at Pence St. Park and Ninth St. Park due to the generosity of the Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation, the Healthy Communities Program at CRH and the NAACP/Second Baptist Church. Many of the children who attend the program at these 2 parks are on the free/reduced fee lunch program and are unable to receive this benefit when not in school. The lunch program was continued for an additional two weeks after the playground program was over to ensure the children still received one healthy meal each work day. With additional support from Lincoln Central Neighborhood Family Center, non-perishable, healthy food items were purchased and “snack packs” were put together to send home with the children on Fridays so they had healthy snacks for the weekend. The other new idea was the distribution of swimsuits to children who did not have one and who could not attend field trips to Donner Pool. A number of suits and towels were purchased and made available to the children. This dramatically increased the number of children who attended pool field trips.

Adult Recreation

✓ Adult activities for 2006 included three “Community Cast-A-Ways” garage sales, the annual “Holiday Creations Craft Show”, the “Spring Craft Show”, “Great Gatherings” fall scrapbooking event, “National Scrapbooking Day” in the spring, 13 Columbus City Band Concerts, 4 Columbus Bluegrass Jamboree Concerts, Country in the Park, 4 Donner Variety Shows, and the Mill Race Race/Mayor’s Walk. The 3 garage sales and 2 craft shows had full registrations with waiting lists. A new class for 2006 was a jewelry making workshop that had a full enrollment with a waiting list. Also new in 2006 was the introduction of Pat Carothers as our new basket class instructor. Pat held 2 classes in late 2006 with full enrollments for both classes.

✓ The Department continued to support the Mill Race Players in their first year as a separate adult drama/theater organization. This support took place in the form of a grant to assist with expenses, rehearsal space and assistance with ticket sales. The group performed the musical “Oklahoma!” as their first independent production.

Park Operations

✓ The City of Columbus won the prestigious America In Bloom Award this year, with Park Operations being a key player throughout the whole process.

✓ In 2006, over 1,557 hours of Park Operations labor support were dedicated to special events. These included USSSA at FFY, Easter Egg Hunts, Tour de Trails, Ceraland Rodeo, After Prom, Variety Shows, River Rats Breakfast, Bark in the Park, Juneteenth Celebration, Popfest, World Series, Swim Meets, CPD Block Party, Country in the Park, Battle of the Bands, Family Fest, Hospice Concert, Bluegrass Festival, Walk-a-Thons, Drive-In Movie, Art Sculpture, Freedom Field Grand Opening, Touch-a-Truck, Ethnic Expo, Veterans Parade, Festival of Lights, and FOL Parade. These special events enrich community and family life with arts, athletic and recreation activities and continue to be a priority for Park Operations.

✓ Employees completed 396 maintenance support work orders in addition to comprehensive routine preventive maintenance schedules and special projects. Maintenance support for special and casual park activities make our parks safe, clean and enjoyable.

- ✓ In 2006, Park Operations planted 45 additional trees and shrubs within the park system to further add to the natural beauty of these green spaces. One hundred white pines were passed out to the community during “Digging with the Pros.” Park Operations spent \$24,763 on tree care for city parks.
- ✓ Park Operations used 2,038.5 hours of volunteer labor in 2006. These included volunteer labor from Community Corrections, Sierra Club, East High School Hands-on Training Program, Friends of the Parks, Cub Scout Pack 550, Trinity Lutheran High School, Smith Elementary, Bartholomew County Youth Services, and North High School Honor Society. Volunteer activity keeps people engaged socially, contributing to their health and longevity.
- ✓ Park Operations employees attended 428 hours of seminar and workshop training in 2006. These included PLANTS Conference, IAA Annual Conference, IPRA Conference, Midwest Turf Expo, Indiana Facility Maintenance Expo, Parks & Recreation Maintenance Management School, Bartlett Tree Management Seminar, Color Rich Gardens Symposium, Emerald ash bore training, training on Reel Mowers, in-house training on chemicals and equipment, ISA Annual Conference & Trade Show, Michigan State Trial Flower Show, America In Bloom Symposium & Awards Program, and NRPA Conference.
- ✓ Park Operations employees also received 259 hours of health and safety training in 2006 (approximately 8 hours per person). This included bloodborne pathogens annual safety training, Ask a Nurse, Department Safety Committee meetings, and monthly employee health and safety meetings.
- ✓ Park Operations currently maintains 19 miles of People Trails throughout the city.
- ✓ The mowing crew mows over 600 acres of park and non-park turf. In 2006, they also supported the Police Department in the mowing of the PAAL football fields.
- ✓ Park Operations supports Community Development through the maintenance of State Road 46 (entrance to the city), landscape maintenance of downtown trees, alleyways and parking lots.
- ✓ The floriculture team designs, installs and maintains eight flower beds plus the entire downtown flower pots and hanging baskets program. Park Operations helped the city achieve the top score for floral display, in our division, for the America In Bloom Award.
- ✓ Park Operations is also proud of our professional certifications. 1) The Parks and Recreation Department has five licensed pesticide applicators: Tim Coomer, Rick Gilbert, Phil Harbaugh, Casey Ritz and Nick Rush. 2) Casey Ritz is an Accredited Plantsman. 3) Nick Rush and Phil Harbaugh are Certified Arborists. 4) Tim Coomer is a certified playground inspector. 5) Graduates from the two-year Park Maintenance Management School at Oglebay: Stephanie Heck, James Johnson and Gary Smith.



- ✓ Shining Star awards were presented in 2006 to: Gary Cheek, Moose Foster, Rick Gilbert, Phil Harbaugh, James Johnson, Walt Perry, Casey Ritz, Nick Rush, Tony Rutan, Dereck Sanders and Steve Watkins.
- ✓ During 2006, Homer Bennett celebrated 30 years and Joe Wright 25 years of service to Parks & Recreation.

2006 CAPITAL AND SPECIAL PROJECTS

Organizations/Other Projects

- ✓ The Arts Council with guidance from Parks had its first Sculpture Invitational which included the installation of 15 temporary sculptures and an Iron Pour. It was a great success!
- ✓ Premier Sports Facility/ Amateur Sports Complex – Staff provided support to the Vision 20/20 Committee for Sports in developing plans for an outdoor sports complex south of City Hall and support for private development of an indoor sports complex.
- ✓ Abitibi Bins have been located at Donner, Lincoln, Clifty, and 1st United Methodist Church. The money from these bins goes towards “Trees to Trees,” which will help plant more trees throughout the parks.
- ✓ We are working to get an article in the paper about Ted Hooker, who just completed 2,000 miles on the People Trails in Columbus.

Chapman Blackwell Park

- ✓ Freedom Field Playground was dedicated and has become a very popular destination!
- ✓ The state plan release has been received as well as the zoning compliance certificate for the Press Box at the Dick Wigh Soccer Facility. We will be getting a building permit so Taylor Brothers can start construction.
- ✓ The installation of another sign at Blackwell was awarded to Taylor Brothers.

Clifty Park

- ✓ Quotes were received for the installation of netting on Diamond #21 and the work was awarded to Skobel Enterprise.
- ✓ A large portion of paving was awarded to CASE Construction. Along with the paving, work has been done with Duke Energy and the Water Company to determine current and future utility needs at Clifty. This will be accounted for when paving.

Donner Park

- ✓ Donner Park has new sidewalk along 17th Street that was installed by K&M Construction.
- ✓ Donner Aquatic Center renovations were completed with the installation of a movable floor and other upgrades. This work was completed by Smock Fansler out of Indianapolis.

- ✓ Donner Center received new carpet in the administrative office area.

Columbus Gymnastics Center

- ✓ An indoor play structure was installed at the Columbus Gymnastics Center.

Greenbelt Golf Course

- ✓ Portions of the cart paths at Greenbelt were overlaid by Milestone. Clubhouse repairs will be awarded in December to fix the water problem.
- ✓ A concrete fence was installed by Park Operations staff at Par 3 and Greenbelt.
- ✓ A number of large trees were moved from the jail to Greenbelt Golf Course and Lincoln Park.
- ✓ The installation of a new sign at the corner of Gladstone and 10th street was awarded to Taylor Brothers.

IUPUC

- ✓ Work with IUPUC continues with the installation of the Duke Energy Sculpture Garden, and the planning and design of a monumental sculpture designed by Howard Meehan at the front entrance and a water sculpture between IUPUC and the Learning Center. Construction is anticipated for the summer of 2007.

Lincoln Park/Hamilton Center

- ✓ Lincoln Park Batting Cage was repaired and lights and fence were installed on Diamond #6.
- ✓ Storage bins were installed at the Park Operation Building and Lincoln Park.
- ✓ The installation of 2 new signs at the corner of Hawcreek Avenue and 25th Street was awarded to Taylor Brothers.
- ✓ Hamilton Center had a new cooling tower and three air handling units installed by Dunlap & Company.

McCullough's Run Park

- ✓ A new shelter was installed at McCullough's Run Park by Repp & Mundt. K&M Construction installed a parking lot extension and new sidewalks along the entry drive.

Mill Race Park

- ✓ Mill Race Center design work was completed for the Round-A-Bout by Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates, Inc. and Jansen and Spaan.
- ✓ Mill Race Center is currently under review by the Senior Center Board to decide the location of the complex.



Noblitt Park

- ✓ A riverbank stabilization project was completed along the People Trail between Mill Race and Noblitt. This work was done by JFNew.
- ✓ Laura Garrett gave a presentation for PIE about the Riverbank Stabilization Project on the People Trail between Noblitt and Mill Race.

PAAL

- ✓ PAAL football complex has been very successful. We continue to provide maintenance and design assistance to the program. Rezoning of additional property to the south for practice and sanitary system was approved. Soil information was obtained for the installation of a Septic Field.

Park Operations

- ✓ The Park Operations parking lot was sealed and striped by CASE Construction.
- ✓ The trash enclosure was completed by Skobel Enterprise.

People Trails

- ✓ Benches were installed along the Hawcreek Trail by K&M Construction.
- ✓ A committee was formed regarding the Columbus to Nashville Trail and presentations were given throughout the City to see the interest. The trail is going to be published in the Indiana Statewide Trails Master Plan.
- ✓ People Trail planning for the next sections has started with HNTB providing the design.
- ✓ We are serving on a Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Committee that has been analyzing existing routes and needed routes and will help to influence the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.
- ✓ Soon to be Eagle Scout, Brenton Wolfe finished his Eagle Scout project placing mile markers along the People Trail.
- ✓ Matt Caldie completed the *Bartholomew County on the Move: Walking and Running Paths* book for his senior project for East High School.
- ✓ Friends of the Parks volunteers helped with a planting project on the People Trail near the intersection of 25th and 31. Over 20 volunteers planted more than 1,000 plants to help beautify the People Trail.

The Commons

- ✓ Commons ceiling was repaired by Dunlap and the playground was resurfaced by Blakley's .

FUTURE PLANNING PROJECTS

- ✓ Mill Race Center
- ✓ Amateur Sports Complex & Indoor Sports Facility
- ✓ IUPUC Kugel Fountain & Reeves Sculpture Plaza
- ✓ People Trail Expansion



2007 GOALS

During 2007, the Department intends to meet the following goals:

- ✓ Continue design process for Mill Race Center
- ✓ Complete the five-year Community Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update.
- ✓ Continue design and funding process for the \$750,000 People Trails grant.
- ✓ Complete Third Phase of Four Year Strategic Plan by December 31, 2007.
- ✓ Develop alternate sources of funding for current and future parks and recreation programs and facilities and expand donations into the newly created Columbus Park Foundation endowment fund.
- ✓ Continue to support the volunteer arm of the Columbus Park Foundation, the Friends of the Parks organization.
- ✓ Continue staff involvement on community committees and projects, including:
 - Community festivals (Ethnic Expo and Festival of Lights Parade)
 - Columbus Area Visitors' Center Board and Executive Committee
 - Columbus Area Arts Council Board of Directors and Executive Committee
 - Foundation for Youth Board of Directors and Executive Committee
 - Healthy Communities Initiative Board of Directors and Self-Care Action Team
 - Priority One Teen Council
 - 20/20 Downtown Development Committee
 - Columbus In Bloom
 - Public Art Steering Committee
 - Columbus Economic Growth Council

WITH SPECIAL THANKS...

Columbus Parks and Recreation would like to extend its appreciation for the continued support in 2006 from our community partners, sponsors, donors and volunteers.

Without your efforts, our programs would not be possible. We look forward to your cooperation and collaboration in 2007.

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD AND STAFF

Brian Russell.....	President, Columbus Park Board
Jerry Littrell.....	Vice President, Columbus Park Board
Ryan Brand.....	Secretary, Columbus Park Board
Amy Macy.....	Member, Columbus Park Board
Chuck Wilt.....	Director of Parks and Recreation
Ed Curtin.....	Assistant to the Director
Mike Keogh.....	Director of Business Services
Nancy Armuth.....	Director of Recreation
Nick Rush.....	Director of Park Operations and City Arborist
Steve Heck.....	Parks Maintenance Manager
Kathy McPeck.....	Recreation Program Manager
Laura Garrett.....	Landscape Designer
Katia Hatter.....	Marketing/Public Relations Coordinator
Mark Jones.....	Sports Programs/Athletic Facilities Manager
Patrick Senn.....	Sports Coordinator
Steve Cohen.....	Director of Golf
Dave Barriger.....	Greens Superintendent
Michelle Prowant.....	CGC Facility/Program Manager
Linsey O'Neal.....	CGC Class Coordinator
Geary Baxter.....	Hamilton Center Manager
Don Gregg.....	Hamilton Center Assistant Manager
Jim Lemke.....	Aquatics Manager/Hamilton Center Asst Manager
Kim Gatten.....	Hamilton Center Secretary
Cindy Brummett.....	Office Manager
Carol Valentine.....	Head Secretary
Tonia Medaris.....	Bookkeeper
Crystal Martinez.....	Bookkeeper
Annie Baugh.....	Secretary
Verna Morrison.....	Park Operations Secretary